



## Presentation

You use *if* with the past simple to talk about situations that are ...

- possible but not probable:  
*If I won the lottery, ...* (I don't think it's very probable that I'll win the lottery.)
- impossible:  
*If I were you, ...* (but I'm not and I never will be.)

You use the *if*-clause to describe the situation. You use *would/wouldn't* + infinitive in the main clause to talk about the imagined reaction to, or result of, the situation:

*If I won the lottery, I'd buy a luxury yacht.*

*If I were you, I'd concentrate on my work.*

You can also use *if* with the past simple to talk about ...

- imagined present situations:  
*If I had a lot of money, ...* (the real situation is that I don't have a lot of money.)
- imagined future situations:  
*If I got a new job next week, ...* (I don't think I will get a new job.)

This is often called the second conditional.

**If clause: *if* + past simple**

If I had a lot of money,  
If he didn't have to work,  
If you won the lottery,

**Main clause: *would* + infinitive**

I'd (would) buy a yacht.  
he wouldn't (would not) get up so early.  
would you spend all the money?  
Yes, I would. / No, I wouldn't.

**TIP** The contracted form of *would* is *'d*. Do not confuse it with the contracted form of *had* in the past perfect. *Would* is followed by the infinitive. *Had* is followed by the past participle.

*I'd go* = *I would go*

*I'd gone* = *I had gone* (not ~~*I would gone*~~)

### ***If I was or If I were?***

When you use the verb *be* with *if* in the simple past, you can use *was* or *were* for *I*, *he*, *she* and *it*.

*If I were rich ... / If I was rich ...*

*If he were my husband ... / If he was my husband ...*

*Were* is more formal.

You often use *If I were you* to give advice. *If I were you* = *If I was / were* in your position. You use *would* / *wouldn't* for the advice.

*If I were you, I'd get on with my work!*

**1 Put the words in order.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 the lottery give I to charity won I'd the money if .....  | 4 asked for mind if wouldn't he you some help .....  |
| 2 taller he'd were he be a great if basketball player ..... | 5 if by bus I have go to work I'd didn't a car ..... |
| 3 if I more energy did I'd some exercise have .....         | 6 worrying it stop if I about were I'd you .....     |

**2 Choose the correct options. Then listen and check.**

- A: So, if you <sup>1</sup> *won / would win* a million pounds on the lottery, what <sup>2</sup> *did / would* you do with it?
- B: I don't know. I think <sup>3</sup> *I bought / I'd buy* a house, and if my family <sup>4</sup> *needed / would need* some money, <sup>5</sup> *I gave / I'd give* them some, of course.
- A: <sup>6</sup> *Did / Would* you give any money to charity?
- B: If <sup>7</sup> *I knew / I'd know* the money was going to help someone have a better life, well, yes, I <sup>8</sup> *did / would*. What about you?
- A: If <sup>9</sup> *I had / I'd have* a million pounds, <sup>10</sup> *I started / I'd start* my own business. <sup>11</sup> *I opened / I'd open* an art gallery or something like that ...
- B: Nice idea. If <sup>12</sup> *I started / I'd start* a new business, I think <sup>13</sup> *I wanted / I'd want* to run a restaurant or a bar.

**3 Complete the people's thoughts.**

- 1 I have to work this morning. If I didn't have to work this morning, I'd have breakfast in bed.
- 2 I haven't got enough time. If I .....  
to school on my bike.
- 3 I haven't got enough money. If I .....  
that scooter.
- 4 I don't know how to drive. If I .....  
a taxi driver.

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**4 Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.**

- 1 If I had ....., I .....
- 2 If I could ....., I .....
- 3 If I didn't have to ....., I .....